



## **BEGINNING SPRING 2013 (ANTICIPATED IN MARCH), VFC PROVIDERS MUST STOP USING FEDERAL VACCINE TO IMMUNIZE UNDERINSURED CHILDREN, UNLESS THEY HAVE A CURRENT (JANUARY 2013) DEPUTIZATION AGREEMENT**

### **Impact**

The Arizona VFC Program will notify VFC Providers when they need to stop using federal vaccine to immunize underinsured children. We expect this to occur in March 2013, but this is just an estimated date at this time. Starting in January 2013, we will email you weekly updates on the status of our vaccine supply for you to use on underinsured children. Please keep immunizing underinsured children until you are told to stop.

Only Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), County Health Departments and a limited number of deputized providers may continue immunizing underinsured children with federal vaccine supplied by the Arizona VFC Program, starting in Spring 2013. Public Health is working with these providers to renew deputization agreements.

In Spring 2013, VFC Providers will need to purchase private vaccine and charge the undersinsured children out-of-pocket for immunizations or refer them to County Health Departments, FQHCs, RHCs, or deputized providers.

In Spring 2013, hospitals will no longer be supplied with Hepatitis B birth dose and HBIG for underinsured children. Hospitals will need to purchase private vaccine and charge undersinsured children out-of-pocket for immunizations, or refer them to County Health Departments, FQHCs, RHCs, or deputized providers.

Sending underinsured children out of their medical home for immunization may create barriers to immunization.

### **Resources**

All County Health Departments will be able to provide VFC Vaccine to undersinsured children. County Health Departments may designate other public or private providers, on a limited basis, to assist them in immunizing underinsured children with VFC vaccine. These providers must accept non-established patients. If you are interested in becoming deputized, please contact your county health department or ADHS at 602-364-3642.

FQHCs and RHCs provide medical services, including immunizations, and specifically the underinsured. These health care centers will require children to enroll in their facility for comprehensive services.

Pharmacies may vaccinate children 6 years of age and older with a doctor's prescription, except for influenza vaccine, which does not require a prescription. Parents of underinsured children may be charged out-of-pocket.

**Definition of Underinsured:** A person who has health insurance, but the coverage does not include vaccines or a person whose insurance covers only selected vaccines. Children who are underinsured for selected vaccines are VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only. Underinsured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Clinic (RHC) or under an approved deputization agreement.

Children with deductibles and co-pays are considered insured and NOT underinsured.

**If you have any questions, please contact the Arizona Department of Health Services VFC Program at (602) 364-3642.**